

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multimedia data retrieval method, comprising:

(a) managing each one of a plurality of multimedia data in
5 relation to time information and/or location information
indicating a time and/or a location at which each
multimedia data is created;

(b) obtaining the time information and/or the location
information corresponding to a retrieval request upon
10 receiving the retrieval request specified by using event
names; and

(c) retrieving multimedia data from the plurality of
multimedia data managed by the step (a), according to the
time information and/or the location information obtained
15 by the step (b).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) obtains
the time information and/or the location information
corresponding to the retrieval request by referring to an
20 index table that contains a plurality of event names and
the time information and/or the location information that
are related to each event name.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step (b) utilizes
25 schedule data as the index table, by taking name
information indicating schedule contents as the event
names, date and time information of schedules as the time
information, and place information of schedules as the
location information.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) obtains
the time information and/or the location information
corresponding to the retrieval request from an index server
by transmitting the retrieval request to the index server
35 which has a function for obtaining the time information

and/or the location information that are related to each event name.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5 (d) obtaining the time information and/or the location information that are related to one multimedia data upon receiving a reverse look-up retrieval request specifying said one multimedia data; and

(e) retrieving event names according to the time
10 information and/or the location information obtained by the step (d) as a reverse look-up retrieval result.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (a) manages each multimedia data in relation to the time information
15 and/or the location information which are automatically created in relation to a creation of each multimedia data.

7. A multimedia data retrieval device, comprising:
a data management unit configured to manage each one
20 of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created;
a processing unit configured to obtain the time
information and/or the location information corresponding
25 to a retrieval request upon receiving the retrieval request specified by using event names; and

a data selection unit configured to retrieve multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data managed by the data management unit, according to the time
30 information and/or the location information obtained by the processing unit.

8. A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied therein for causing a computer to
35 function as a multimedia data retrieval device, the

computer readable program codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to manage each one of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created;

a second computer readable program code for causing said computer to obtain the time information and/or the location information corresponding to a retrieval request upon receiving the retrieval request specified by using event names; and

a third computer readable program code for causing said computer to retrieve multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data managed by the first computer readable program code, according to the time information and/or the location information obtained by the second computer readable program code.

9. An index information providing method, comprising:

(a) receiving a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

(b) obtaining time information and/or location information corresponding to the retrieval request received by the step (a) according to the event names used in the retrieval request by referring to an index table that contains a plurality of event names and the time information and/or the location information that are related to each event name, the time information and/or the location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created; and

(c) providing the time information and/or the location information obtained by the step (b) as an index information, through the network to the requestor.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the index table

includes a plurality of personal index tables and a common index table, and the step (b) obtains the time information and/or the location information by referring at least to one of the personal index table corresponding to the
5 requestor and the common index table.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step (b) utilizes schedule data as the index table, by taking name information indicating schedule contents as the event
10 names, date and time information of schedules as the time information, and place information of schedules as the location information.

12. An index server, comprising:
15 a request reception unit configured to receive a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

a processing unit configured to obtain time information and/or location information corresponding to
20 the retrieval request received by the request reception unit according to the event names used in the retrieval request by referring to an index table that contains a plurality of event names and the time information and/or the location information that are related to each event
25 name, the time information and/or the location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created; and

an index information transmission unit configured to provide the time information and/or the location
30 information obtained by the processing unit as an index information, through the network to the requestor.

13. A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied therein for causing a computer to
35 function as an index server, the computer readable program

codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to receive a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

- 5 a second computer readable program code for causing said computer to obtain time information and/or location information corresponding to the retrieval request received by the first computer readable program code according to the event names used in the retrieval request by referring
- 10 to an index table that contains a plurality of event names and the time information and/or the location information that are related to each event name, the time information and/or the location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created; and
- 15 a third computer readable program code for causing said computer to provide the time information and/or the location information obtained by the second computer readable program code as an index information, through the network to the requestor.

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14. A multimedia data retrieval method, comprising:

(a) managing each one of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each

25 multimedia data is created;

(b) receiving a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

(c) obtaining the time information and/or the location information corresponding to the retrieval request received

30 by the step (b);

(d) retrieving multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data managed by the step (a), according to the time information and/or the location information obtained by the step (c); and

35 (e) providing the multimedia data retrieved by the step

(d) as a retrieval result, through the network to the requestor.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step (c) obtains
5 the time information and/or the location information corresponding to the retrieval request by referring to an index table that contains a plurality of event names and the time information and/or the location information that are related to each event name.

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16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

(f) obtaining the time information and/or the location information that are related to one multimedia data upon receiving a reverse look-up retrieval request specifying
15 said one multimedia data; and

(g) retrieving event names according to the time information and/or the location information obtained by the step (f) as a reverse look-up retrieval result.

20 17. A multimedia data retrieval server, comprising:

a data management unit configured to manage each one of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created;
25 a request reception unit configured to receive a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

a processing unit configured to obtain the time information and/or the location information corresponding
30 to the retrieval request received by the request reception unit;

a data selection unit configured to retrieve multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data managed by the data management unit, according to the time
35 information and/or the location information obtained by the

processing unit; and

a retrieval result transmission unit configured to provide the multimedia data retrieved by the data selection unit as a retrieval result, through the network to the
5 requestor.

18. A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied therein for causing a computer to function as a multimedia data retrieval server, the
10 computer readable program codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to manage each one of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at
15 which each multimedia data is created;

a second computer readable program code for causing said computer to receive a retrieval request specified by using event names, through a network from a requestor;

a third computer readable program code for causing
20 said computer to obtain the time information and/or the location information corresponding to the retrieval request received by the second computer readable program code;

a fourth computer readable program code for causing said computer to retrieve multimedia data from the
25 plurality of multimedia data managed by the first computer readable program code, according to the time information and/or the location information obtained by the third computer readable program code; and

a fifth computer readable program code for causing
30 said computer to provide the multimedia data retrieved by the fourth computer readable program code as a retrieval result, through the network to the requestor.

19. A method for providing an index information providing
35 service from an index server to multimedia data retrieval

devices which are connected through a network, each multimedia data retrieval device managing each one of a plurality of multimedia data in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a retrieval request specified by using event names, at the index server through the network from a requesting multimedia data retrieval device;

(b) obtaining the time information and/or the location information corresponding to the retrieval request received by the step (a) at the index server according to the event names used in the retrieval request by referring to an index table that contains a plurality of event names and the time information and/or the location information that are related to each event name; and

(c) providing the time information and/or the location information obtained by the step (b) as an index information, from the index server through the network to the requesting multimedia data retrieval device, so as to enable the requesting multimedia data retrieval device to retrieve multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data according to the time information and/or the location information obtained from the index server.

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20. A method for providing a multimedia data retrieval service from a multimedia data retrieval server to clients which are connected through a network, the method comprising:

(a) managing each one of a plurality of multimedia data at the multimedia data retrieval server in relation to time information and/or location information indicating a time and/or a location at which each multimedia data is created;

(b) receiving a retrieval request specified by using event names, at the multimedia data retrieval server through a

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network from a requesting client;

(c) obtaining the time information and/or the location information corresponding to the retrieval request received by the step (b) at the multimedia data retrieval server;

5 (d) retrieving multimedia data from the plurality of multimedia data managed by the step (a) at the multimedia data retrieval server, according to the time information and/or the location information obtained by the step (c); and

10 (e) providing the multimedia data retrieved by the step (d) as a retrieval result, from the multimedia data retrieval server through the network to the requesting client, so as to enable the requesting client to obtain the multimedia data matching with the retrieval request.

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